

and the hospital work and all the good works that you have done, and I want to thank you for setting such a good example.

Again, welcome to the White House. If you're a junior or a sophomore, work hard and come back. I'll be here to greet you. In the meantime, may God bless you all and your families. Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Dan Brooks, head women's golf coach, and Mike Krzyzewski, head men's basketball coach, Duke University.

Memorandum Regarding Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act 1961, as Amended, To Furnish Anti-Terrorism Assistance to the Philippines

July 12, 2005

Presidential Determination No. 2005-28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense

Subject: Presidential Determination Regarding Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act 1961, as amended, to Furnish Anti-Terrorism Assistance to the Philippines

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 506(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is in the national interest of the United States to draw down articles, services, military education, and training from the Department of Defense for the purpose of providing anti-terrorism assistance for the Philippines.

I therefore direct the drawdown of up to \$10 million of articles, services, military education, and training from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense for the Philippines for the purposes and under the authorities of chapter 8 of part II of the Act.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to report this determination to the

Congress and to arrange for its publication in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 19, 2005]

This memorandum will be published in the *Federal Register* on July 20.

Memorandum on Delegation of Functions Under Section 9 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004

July 12, 2005

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Delegation of Functions under Section 9 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions and authorities assigned to the President under section 9 of the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 (19 U.S.C. 3701 note).

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Remarks Following a Cabinet Meeting and an Exchange With Reporters

July 13, 2005

The President. Thank you all for coming. We have just finished our third Cabinet meeting of the year. I want to thank my Secretaries for being here today, and thank you for the briefing. Today's briefing reminded us about the strength of our economy. We had some good news today. The OMB is going to announce that the 2005 deficit is \$94 billion less than previously expected. In other words, revenues are coming in greater than anticipated. It's a sign that our economy is strong, and it's a sign that our tax relief plan, our pro-growth policies, are working.

I told the Congress and told the country we'd cut the deficit in half by 2009. We're

ahead of projections now. In other words, these numbers indicate that we're going to cut the deficit in half faster than the year 2009, so long as Congress holds the line on spending.

And so, my message to the United States Congress is: Let's be wise with the taxpayers' money. My Cabinet is committed to that, and we look forward to working with the appropriators to make sure that they spend your money wisely.

This good news on the deficit and on the budget is coupled with good economic news when it comes to job creation. Our unemployment rate is down to 5 percent. We've created more than 2 million jobs this year. More Americans are working today than ever before in our Nation's history.

Over the next couple of weeks, I look forward to working with Congress to continue progrowth policies. One is getting an energy bill. Secondly is to promote free and fair trade. And the matter at hand is a free trade agreement with our neighborhood and countries in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Finally, I hope we can continue to press for and pass legal reform. I think it's a very important message to say to our job creators, small-business owners, that we'll have a fair legal system, and Congress has got some legal reform matters pending.

And finally—finally, finally, we want to work with Congress to pass a fiscally responsible highway bill. Again, I want to thank my Cabinet for being here.

I'll be glad to answer a couple of questions. Mark Knoller [CBS Radio], are you with us?

Disclosure of CIA Employee's Identity

Q. You bet. Thank you, sir. Can I ask you if you have spoken with your Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove about the Valerie Plame matter? And do you think he acted improperly in talking about it with reporters?

The President. Mark, I have instructed every member of my staff to fully cooperate in this investigation. I also will not prejudge the investigation based on media reports. We're in the midst of an ongoing investigation, and I will be more than happy to comment further once the investigation is completed.

Elaine Quijano [CNN].

Q. Mr. President, on that front, though, has Mr. Rove come to you and discussed—when did he discuss the fact that he had conversations with reporters about Valerie Plame? And based on that, do you feel as though it was appropriate in 2003 for your spokesman to say definitively that Karl Rove had nothing to do with the Valerie Plame incident?

The President. We're in the midst of an ongoing investigation, and this is a serious investigation. And it is very important for people not to prejudge the investigation based on media reports. And again, I will be more than happy to comment on this matter once the investigation is complete.

Brendan Murray [Bloomberg News].

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Yes, Brendan.

Upcoming Supreme Court Nomination

Q. In your search for a replacement for the Supreme Court, when do you anticipate beginning to interview potential candidates, and do—would you consider candidates that come from outside the court, people that don't have experience as judges?

The President. I—we had a very good meeting yesterday. The Vice President and I met with leaders of the Senate, four Members of the United States Senate, and we talked about a lot of subjects. One of the subjects was that very subject: Would I be willing to consider people who had never been a judge. The answer is, you bet. We're considering all kinds of people—judges, non-judges. You know, Laura gave me some good advice yesterday, which is to consider women, which of course I'm doing. [Laughter]

And in terms of the process, we're still consulting with Members of the Senate, and I anticipate continued consultations. And I say "we're consulting," it's just not me. It's members of my staff. We're—we've got a lot of contacts in the Senate on both sides of the Hill—both sides of the aisle, and people are calling in with suggestions. And I encourage them to continue to do so. I'm looking forward to their advice.

Of course, I fully recognize it's my responsibility to come up with a nominee, and I

intend to do so in a—you know, in a period of time that will give me time to fully analyze the different candidates and speak to them. I'm not exactly sure when that process will begin, in terms of the interviews. And probably if I knew, I wouldn't tell you. *[Laughter]* And—but the American people can rest assured that I understand the seriousness of this responsibility and that I will name somebody who will bring dignity to the Court, someone who will be able to do the job, and someone who will sit on that bench and interpret the Constitution and not use the bench from which to legislate.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:52 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Indiana Black Expo Corporate Luncheon in Indianapolis, Indiana

July 14, 2005

Thank you all very much. Thanks for the warm welcome. Be seated. It is an honor to be here. Thanks for having me. I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be here with the men and women of the Indiana Black Expo as you celebrate your 35th anniversary.

You know, I was reading about this organization—it is a—it shows the entrepreneurial spirit deep within the hearts of the founders of this organization and the people who are carrying on the proud tradition. I appreciate the fact that you provide scholarships, support programs that are transforming local communities, and as a result, you're lifting up thousands of citizens. I appreciate the example of leadership you set, and it's my honor to join you. Thanks for having me.

I was proud to be introduced by Governor Mitch Daniels. I knew he'd amount to something one of these days. *[Laughter]* And I'm particularly thrilled to be with his wife, Cheri, the fine first lady of the State of Indiana. Laura sends her love to both you and Mitch. She is, by the way, still on the continent of Africa. She'll be coming home to-

morrow. She's probably expecting me to fix the dinner. *[Laughter]* I hope she's not hungry. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman for being here. I want to thank Congresswoman Julia Carson for being here today. *[Applause]* It looks like they still remember you here, Julia. She was on Air Force One, and I went back to have a visit with her. Now, if you've never had a visit with Julia—*[laughter]*—she's got a lot of wisdom. *[Laughter]* And she's not afraid to speak her mind. She kind of reminds me of my mother. Thanks for being here. Thanks for coming down.

I want to thank the mayor, Bart Peterson, of the city of Indianapolis for joining us today. Mayor Peterson, appreciate, you. Thanks for coming.

I thank Arvis Dawson and Joyce Rogers and Jim Cummings for this fantastic invitation to come. And I want to thank you for your leadership. Appreciate you all being here.

They tell me Quinn Buckner is here—somewhere out there. There he is. I appreciate you coming. I'm old enough to remember—*[laughter]*—the good old days in Indiana. *[Laughter]* Thanks for being here, Quinn. I'm honored you're here.

I appreciate the fact that Vernice Williams came out to the airport today. I don't know if you know Vernice or not, but I find it very interesting—her story interesting, and it's a good example for all of us to listen to. Vernice has been a volunteer with Black Expo for 35 years. In other words, once this association got started, she said, "I want to volunteer to help." She's involved with the IBE Youth Corps program, all aimed at helping at-risk youth to achieve academic achievement, to instill in them the desire to excel. In other words, she's a soldier in the army of compassion. And I appreciate the example that Vernice has set. And if you want to serve your State and serve our Nation, help somebody in need.

It's an honor to be here with so many charitable and civic leaders. You see, we share a belief in the founding promises of this Nation, a sense of optimism about our future, the future for all citizens, including African Americans. We believe in the power of the